

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

5 Claim 22 (currently amended): A switching module ~~(130)~~ (9) for a hand-held mixer (1) which, in addition to the switching module, has two mains terminals (10, 11) for connection to a source of electrical power, and has a motor (27) for driving mixing tools (28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35) and is, said motor being adapted to effect driving with at least two lower speeds and with a speed which is higher than the lower speeds,

10 wherein the switching module ~~(130)~~ (9) comprises:

speed switching means (60) for switching the speed of the motor (27) to different lower speed values, and means for actuating the speed switching means (60) in response to a first mechanical input, and

15 start means (61) for starting the motor (27) at the higher speed in response to a second mechanical input,

characterized in that the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) as well as two mains terminals (10, 11) are connected mechanically and electrically in the module (9), and

all the electrical connections between the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) are realized on the module (9).

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Claim 23 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that interference suppression means (16) are also connected mechanically and electrically to, and realized on, the module (9).

25 Claim 24 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 22, wherein said source of electrical power is an a.c. mains, characterized in that the module comprises connecting leads (62, 63, 64, 65, 66,) fixedly connected to the module (9) and having free ends (67, 68, 69, 70, 71) arranged for connection to respective motor terminals (72, 73, 74, 75, 76).

30 Claim 25 (currently amended): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 7 22, characterized in

that the module (9) further comprises:

a supporting member (85) bounded by a bounding surface (86),

electrically conductive contact strips (88, 89) connected to the supporting member (85)
in the area of the bounding surface (86) and extending parallel to a strip direction (90),

5 a first slider (102) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member
(85) parallel to the strip direction (90) and which serves as a mating-contact holder and carries at
least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are interconnected in an electrically
conductive manner, which cooperate with the contact strips (88, 99) and which together with the
contact strips (88, 89) form the speed switching means (60),

10 a second slider (116) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting
member (85) and which serves as switching actuator, and

a switching contact (100) which is disposed in the path of movement of the second slider
(116) and which forms part of the start means (61).

15 Claim 26 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 25, characterized in
that the second slider (116) is also guided so as to be movable parallel to the strip direction (90).

Claim 27 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 25, characterized in
that at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are carried by the first slider (102) and
20 which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner are associated with a contact link
(108, 109).

Claim 28 (new): A hand mixer (1), comprising:

a housing,

25 tool connection means mechanically connected to said housing, and arranged for
connection to mixing tools,

means for connection to a source of electrical power,

a motor (27) for driving said tool connection means, said motor being arranged to be
energized from said source of electrical power, and being arranged to effect driving with at least
30 two lower speeds and with a speed which is higher than the lower speeds,

a first switching handle (20) and a second switching handle (24), and
a switching module, wherein said housing, tool connection means, and motor do not
form part of said module,

characterized in that said switching module (9) includes:

5 speed switching means (60) for switching the speed of the motor (27) to different lower
speed values, said speed switching means (60) being arranged for actuation by said first switching
handle (20),

start means (61) for starting the motor (27) at the higher speed, said start means (61)
being arranged for actuation by said second switching handle (24), and

10 two mains terminals (10, 11) arranged for electrical connection to said source of
electrical power,

the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed switching means (60) and the start means
(61) being connected mechanically and electrically to form the module (9), and

all the electrical connections between the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed
15 switching means (60) and the start means (61) being realized on the module (9).

Claim 29 (new): A hand mixer as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that said first switching
handle (20), said second switching handle (24), and said means for connection to a source of
electrical power do not form part of said module.

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Claim 30 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 28, further comprising interference
suppression means (16) connected to the two mains terminals (10, 11) for the purpose of
interference suppression, characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) also form
part of the module (9).

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Claim 31 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 28, further comprising interference
suppression means (16), characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) are also
connected directly on the motor, and comprise a capacitor which can discharge via windings on the
motor.

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Claim 32 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 28, wherein said tool connection means is connected to selected ones of a plurality of mixing tools (28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35).

5 Claim 33 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 28, wherein said source of electrical power is an a.c. mains, and said motor has more than three terminals for selective connection to electrical power to cause the motor to operate at different speeds.

Claim 34 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 33, characterized in that connecting leads (62, 63, 64, 65, 66) are fixedly connected to the module (9) and have free ends (67, 68, 69,
10 70, 71) arranged to be connected to respective ones of the motor terminals (72, 73, 74, 75, 76).

Claim 35 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that the module (9) further comprises:

15 a supporting member (85) bounded by a bounding surface (86),
electrically conductive contact strips (88, 89) connected to the supporting member (85) in the area of the bounding surface (86) and extending parallel to a strip direction (90),
a first slider (102) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member (85) parallel to the strip direction (90) and which serves as a mating-contact holder and carries at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are interconnected in an electrically
20 conductive manner, which cooperate with the contact strips (88, 89) and which together with the contact strips (88, 89) form the speed switching means (60),
a second slider (116) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member (85) and which serves as switching actuator, and
a switching contact (100) which is disposed in the path of movement of the second slider
25 (116) and which forms part of the start means (61).

Claim 36 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that the second slider (116) is also guided so as to be movable parallel to the strip direction (90).

30 Claim 37 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that at least two

mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are carried by the first slider (102), and which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner, are associated with a contact link (108, 109).

Claim 38 (new): A hand mixer as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that said first switching
5 handle (20), said second switching handle (24), and said means for connection to a source of electrical power do not form part of said module.

Claim 39 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 35, further comprising interference
10 suppression means (16) connected to the two mains terminals (10, 11) for the purpose of interference suppression, characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) also form part of the module (9).

Claim 40 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 35, further comprising interference
15 suppression means (16), characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) are also connected directly on the motor, and comprise a capacitor which can discharge via windings on the motor.

Claim 41 (new): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that connecting
20 leads (62, 63, 64, 65, 66) are fixedly connected to the module (9) and have free ends (67, 68, 69, 70, 71) arranged to be connected to respective ones of the motor terminals (72, 73, 74, 75, 76).